



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

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Production in the major U. S. fisheries was running about 10 percent better than last year at the end of the third quarter of 1943, with gains registered by practically every important fishery with the exception of the offshore trawling fleets of New England, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes announced today.

Alaska salmon, pilchard, tuna, and Pacific mackerel, which together make up almost half the total U.S. fishery production, all showed gains ranging from 7 to 73 percent in a round-up of figures compiled by the Coordinator's Office.

Landings of fish and shellfish during the first nine months of the year normally amount to about 65 to 70 percent of the total year's production. The months of July, August and September are the period of greatest activity in the fisheries. The last three months of the year are the peak production season for pilchards, Pacific mackerel, shrimp, and oysters, and there is still opportunity for important quantities of tuna, New England offshore species, and menhaden to be caught.

With only a small end-of-season pack still to be reported, Alaska salmon canneries had packed 5,327,620 cases by September 18, compared with 4,793,202 cases by this date last year. The exceptionally successful season in Bristol Bay was counterbalanced by relatively poor fishing in Southeastern Alaska.

Landing of pilchard - the most important single fish in the United States in terms of volume of production - were 255,859 tons at the end of September 1943, compared with 209,154 tons at the same period last year. Somewhat fewer pilchards are being canned as sardines this year because of a shortage of cannery labor, but a corresponding increase in the production of meal and oil, important in animal feeding, is noted.

On the Atlantic coast, production of menhaden oil increased from 3,245,907 gallons in 1942 to 3,926,717 gallons this year in spite of the requisitioning of a considerable number of menhaden seiners by the military services. Figures on the production of menhaden meal are not yet available for the current season.

Current production figures for the major fisheries are as follows:

(over)

<u>Landings of fish</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>
Pilchard (California)	Jan.-Sept.	pounds	511,718,000	418,308,000
Tuna (California)	Jan.-Sept.	pounds	89,180,000	80,392,248
Mackerel, Pacific	Jan.-Sept.	pounds	24,891,857	13,852,778
Halibut	Jan.-Sept.	pounds	38,164,015	36,775,923
Shrimp, Gulf	Jan.-Sept.	barrels	245,133	203,819
Oysters, Gulf	Jan.-Sept.	barrels	711,974	719,300
Crabs, Gulf	Jan.-Sept.	pounds	7,023,858	11,465,672
Alaska herring	Jan.-Sept.	pounds	84,323,250	36,602,250
New England ports	Jan.-Aug.	pounds	231,671,477	271,749,253
Maine herring	Jan.-Aug.	pounds	19,757,495	29,689,680
Maine (except herring)	Jan.-Aug.	pounds	53,406,350	51,559,701
By Seattle halibut and shark fleet	Jan.-Sept.	pounds	16,381,128	16,796,883

Canned Products

Sardines (pilchard)	Jan.-Sept.	cases	1,620,924	1,690,983
Tuna	Jan.-Sept.	cases	1,893,428	1,674,000
Mackerel, Pacific	Jan.-Sept.	cases	251,674	163,743
Alaska salmon	Jan.-Sept.	cases	5,327,620	4,973,020
Puget Sound salmon	Jan.-Sept.	cases	107,578	272,133
Shrimp, Gulf	Jan.-Sept.	cases	245,133	203,819

Byproducts

Sardine oil (California only)	Jan.-Sept.	gallons	7,860,498	5,955,777
Sardine meal (California only)	Jan.-Sept.	tons	39,398	30,853
Menhaden oil	Jan.-Aug.	gallons	3,926,717	3,245,907
Herring meal	Jan.-Sept.	tons	6,330	2,871
Herring oil	Jan.-Sept.	gallons	1,644,142	829,230
Tuna-mackerel oil	Jan.-Sept.	gallons	121,358	116,017
Tuna-mackerel meal	Jan.-Sept.	tons	5,376	4,562